LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

LAKE ST. JOHN

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

JULY 2007 - Prepared by
Mike Ewing, Biologist Manager, District 4

FEBRUARY 2014 – Updated by
Richard Moses, Biologist Manager, District 3
Shelby Richard, Biologist II, District 3

The remainder of this page left intentionally blank.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LAKE HISTORY

General Information

Date reservoir formed
Lake St. John is a natural oxbow lake formed when the Mississippi River changed its course prior to recorded history (dates back to first Spanish explorers) now completely separated from the river.

Impoundment
Lake St. John is a natural lake.

Ownership – State of Louisiana

Purposes for creation – Natural oxbow

Size
2,100 acres

Water shed
9,470 acres (ratio 4.5:1)

Pool stage
54.3 ft. MSL (mean sea level)

Parish/s located
Concordia – (Lat. $31^0$42'23", long. $91^0$27'42", T. 8N, R.10E)

Drawdown description
The original Lake St. John drawdown/floodgate structure, located on Buckner Bayou, was built around 1948 and consisted of two 4-ft. culverts with invert elevation 47.9 and equipped with stop logs which could raise the elevation up to 53.0 ft. MSL. Following the 1973 flood, lake residents wanted the ability to allow water out of the lake faster. In 1975, the Concordia Parish Police Jury built a second fixed concrete weir/spillway (34 ft. wide with an elevation of 53.0 ft. MSL) adjacent to the drawdown/floodgate structure in Buckner Bayou. Following several dry years in the 1980's, residents complained about the lake levels being too low and in 1982, a timber cap was placed on top of the concrete weir raising its elevation by approximately one foot. In 1987, the two 4-ft culverts located in the original (now rusted out) drawdown structure was replaced with three 5-ft gated culverts set to the same elevation as the original structure.

Drawdown structure – see **Appendix I**.
Gate size – 5 ft. diameter each

Number of gates – 3 culverts, each with a 5 ft. diameter and 47.9 ft. MSL invert elevations; stop logs raise elevation to 54.3 ft. MSL
Condition – Good

Spillway
Lake St. John has a spillway located in Buckner Bayou. It is an un-gated fixed concrete weir, 34 ft. wide with an elevation of 53.0 ft. MSL. In 1982 a timber cap was placed on top of the concrete weir that raised the elevation to 54.0 MSL.

Who controls
The Lake St. John Recreation and Water Conservation District (previously Lake St. John Advisory Committee) established under Louisiana Legislative Act 214 of 2005 under the supervision of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

Lake Authority

Lake Association
Lake St. John Recreation and Water Conservation District

Contact Information - Tom Bell
Lake St. John Grocery
6179 Hwy 568
Ferriday, La 71334
Phone – 318-757-0013

Authorization –
see **Appendix II**
R.S.38:3087.381-3087.297
H.B. No. 313; by Rep. Hammet; Regular session 2005
Louisiana Legislative Act 214 of 2005.
http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=318785&n=HB313%20Act%20214

Access - map with boat launch locations in **Appendix III**.

Public Commercial Boat Launches

Spokane Resort – Located at the intersection of Hwy 568 and 569
Lees Landing – Located Southeast of Hwy 569
Lake St. John Grocery – Located Northwest of Hwy 568
Harmon's Landing – Located on Hwy 569 North

Piers
No public fishing piers are available. Approximately 300 private piers are on the lake.

State/Federal Facilities
NONE

Reefs
LDWF artificial reefs placed near the mouth of Buckner Bayou, marked with a buoy (31.0 42' 31.9" N x 91.0 27' 36.4" W)

Shoreline Development

State/National Parks
NONE

Shoreline development by landowners
Approximately 90% of the shoreline is developed by private landowners with homes and camps. Approximately 300 private piers and boat houses are located on the lake.

Physical Description of lake

Shoreline length
16 miles

Timber type
Lake St. John is primarily an open water lake. However there is a fringe of cypress trees along the shoreline.

Average depth
12 feet

Maximum depth
28 feet

Natural seasonal water fluctuation
Due to the extremely small watershed (4.5 to 1) water levels rarely rise above the normal pool elevation. However normal low water fluctuations of 2'are common.

Events / Problems

Historically there have been disagreements between user groups concerning water levels and annual drawdowns.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Aquatic Vegetation

Historically, aquatic vegetation has not been a serious issue in Lake St. John. The latest vegetation survey occurred in July of 2013. No significant submersed vegetation was observed.

Floating vegetation found included water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*). The total acreage for both species combined was less than 25 acres.

Emergent vegetation found included giant cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), water primrose (*Ludwigia sp*.), and water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle sp*.). Emergent vegetation was found along the shoreline. Giant cutgrass is the primary shoreline vegetation and is historically found in a fringe along approximately 50% of the lake. This likely reduces shoreline erosion by buffering waves created by extensive water recreation that occurs on the lake. Large cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) line the entire shoreline and extend out into the lake on the "island" side of the lake and in the flats on each end of the lake. Cypress trees cover about 10% of the lake.

Type map

A vegetation survey was conducted on Lake St. John in July of 2013 and found approximately 5% coverage of aquatic vegetation. See written description of the survey above. No type map was completed due to the lack of vegetation. The last type maps were completed in 2005 and 2012. They are located in **Appendix IV**.

Biomass

No vegetation biomass sampling has been conducted.

Treatment history by year available

Biological
No biological treatments have been conducted on Lake St. John.

Chemical
LDWF spray crews utilize foliar herbicide applications as periodic complaints are received from the public. Spray records indicate giant salvinia was found in the lake in 2009. Records indicate 1 acre was treated and no other incidence of giant salvinia has been documented. No spraying was needed in 2013. For a complete summary of herbicide applications see Table 1.

Herbicide applications in the past have been applied at the following rates:

Glyphosate (Aquamaster, Aquastar, etc.): Used at a rate of 0.75 gallons per acre to treat alligator weed, water hyacinth, and giant and common salvinia during the active growing period.

Diquat (Reward, Knockout): Used at a rate of 0.75 gallons per acre to treat alligator weed, water hyacinth, and giant and common salvinia during the slower growing period or winter months.

Surfactant is added at a rate of 1:4 (surfactant: herbicide) for all herbicides.

Future herbicide applications for the treatment of giant and common salvinia will be in accordance with the approved LDWF Aquatic Herbicide Recommendations effective March 18, 2013. Schedule and rates listed below:

April 1-October 31: glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre)/diquat (0.25 gal/acre)/Aqua King Plus (0.25 gal/acre)/ Air Cover (12 oz. /acre)

November 1 – March 31: diquat (0.75 gal./acre)/non-ionic surfactant (0.25 gal/acre)

Table 1. Herbicide applications in Lake St. John, Louisiana from 2005 to present.

Year	Acres Treated	Vegetation
2005	23	Water Hyacinth
2006	16	Common Salvinia
2007	6	Alligator Weed
	5	Common Salvinia
2008	5	Alligator Weed
	2	Pennywort
	7	Common Salvinia
	35	Water Hyacinth
2009	11	Alligator Weed
	5	Common Salvinia
	1	Giant Salvinia
	27	Water Hyacinth
2010	29	Alligator Weed
	13	Duckweed
	20	Pennywort
	29	Common Salvinia
	75	Water Hyacinth
2011	38	Alligator Weed
	7	Pennywort
	5	Water Hyacinth
2012	4	Pennywort
	1	Water Hyacinth

Physical

The Lake St. John Advisory committee conducted annual drawdowns, four feet below pool stage from 1983 until 1998. These took place from September thru December each year during that time. No drawdowns have occurred since 1998; however aquatic vegetation does not normally cause problems for lake users.

History of Regulations

Recreational

Statewide regulations for all fish species, the recreational fishing regulations may be viewed at this link: http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations

Commercial
The commercial fishing regulations may be viewed at the link below:
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations

Drawdown history
Lake St. John was last drawn down in 1998 when the lake was lowered 4' below pool from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31. The Lake St. John Advisory committee conducted controlled water fluctuations (drawdowns of about 4' below pool stage from September – December) annually from 1983 until 1998. Several years of drought in the late 1990's led to the decision to discontinue this practice.

Table 2. Drawdown history of Lake St. John, Louisiana.

Year	Purpose	Results	Issues
1983 - 1998	Fish balance & spawning substrate	Good	Droughts led to discontinue drawdowns

Purpose
Maintain fish population balance, improve fish spawning substrate, allow pier and property maintenance.

Success
Good.

Fishing closure
The lake has not been closed to fishing during the drawdowns.

Depth below pool
During a drawdown, the gate can be opened to lower the lake from pool elevation of 54.3 ft. MSL to 47.0 ft. MSL (6.3 ft. below pool). However, prior drawdowns have been approximately 4' below pool. The average lake depth during a drawdown is about 8 ft., with maximum depths of about 24 ft.

Estimated % exposed
Approximately 15% of the lake bottom is exposed during a 4' drawdown.

Who operated structure?
Historically, during drawdowns the structure gate opening has been handled by the Lake St. John Advisory Committee. It has been renamed the Lake St. John Recreation and Water Conservation District.

Fish kills
No documented fish kills have occurred during drawdowns.

Fish kills / disease history, LMBV

LMBV was confirmed to be present in 2001, but no fish kill occurred; there have been periodic dissolved oxygen related fish kills of most species in late summer. Fish kills of yellow bass have occurred on several occasions during the spring. These kills appear to be caused by heavy infestations of trematode gill worms.

Contaminants / Pollution

No documented records of contaminants or pollution have been located in the files. Currently there are no fish consumption advisories. However, annual updates can be found at the DEQ and LDWF links below.
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2201/Default.aspx
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/fish-consumption-advisories

Water level

Normal pool elevation for Lake St. John is 54.3 M.S.L. Water levels do not fluctuate greatly due to the extremely small watershed. The lake water is utilized for irrigation purposes thus water fluctuations of 2' below pool elevation are common during summer and fall months.

Biological

Fish samples

Table 3. Historical and proposed fisheries sampling on Lake St. John, Louisiana.

YEAR	SAMPLING GEAR
1971-1983	Rotenone
1984	Rotenone; Wire traps – gear/channel catfish study
1985	Rotenone; Wire traps – gear/channel catfish study
1986	Rotenone; Wire traps – gear/channel catfish study
1987	Rotenone
1988	Rotenone
1989	Electrofishing (Fall 4 Stations)
1990	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations)
1991	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (4 Stations)
1992	Rotenone; Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations)
1994	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (2 Stations

1995	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Gill Nets (2 Stations; Shoreline seining (4 Stations)
1996	Shoreline seining (3 Stations)
1997	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations)
1998	Gill Nets (3 Stations)
1999	Electrofishing (Spring 6 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations)
2001	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations)
2002	Gill Nets (3 Stations)
2003	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations); Gill Nets (3 Stations)
2004	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations)
2005	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations); Gill Nets (3 Stations)
2006	Gill Nets (3 Stations)
2007	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall 4 stations)
2009	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Shoreline seining (3 Stations)
2013	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations)
2016	Electrofishing (Spring 4 Stations, Fall 4 Stations); Gill Nets(3 stations)

Lake records

No official records are kept for Lake St. John.

Stocking History

Hybrid striped bass (HSB) stockings have occurred 28 times since 1977. Fishermen have expressed great satisfaction with this program. Florida largemouth bass (FLMB) stocking first occurred in 1999. Since that time FLMB stocking has occurred 10 times, however genetic testing in 2004 found no bass with Florida bass genes.

Table 4. Fish stocking records for Lake St. John, Louisiana, from 1977 – 2013.

Year	Hybrid Striped Bass	Florida Largemouth Bass
1977	21,785	---
1978	10,000	---
1979	10,462	---
1980	10,000	---
1981	10,000	---
1983	10,000	---
1984	10,000	---
1985	20,000	---
1986	30,400	---
1987	21,775	---
1988	20,000	---
1989	20,000	---
1990	10,000	---
1991	20,010	---
1992	20,000	---
1994	200,000 (Fry)	---
1999	17,754	21,614
2000	19,740	---
2002	22,510	21,995
2003	6,384	22,002
2004	31,396	22,110
2005	20,226	22,261
2006	23,000	1,001
2007	22,002	22,072
2008	---	841
2009	19,117	23,462
2010	36,969	---
2011	---	21,616
2013	20,020	---

Species profile

As per Freshwater Fishes of Louisiana by Dr. Neil H. Douglas, fish species listed below in Table 5 have been collected or are likely to occur in Lake St. John.

Table 5. Fishes collected or likely to occur in Lake St. John, LA.

Lamprey Family, PETROMYZONTIDAE
Southern brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon gagei* Hubbs and Trautman
Chestnut lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon castaneus* Girard

Gar Family, LEPISOSTEIDAE
Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)
Longnose gar, *Lepisosteus osseus* (Linnaeus)
Shortnose gar, *Lepisosteus platostomus* Rafinesque
Alligator gar, *Lepisosteus spatula* Lacépède

Bowfin Family, AMIIDAE
Bowfin, *Amia calva* Linnaeus

Freshwater Eel Family, ANGUILLIDAE
American eel, *Anguilla rostrata* (Lesueur)

Herring Family, CLUPEIDAE
Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)
Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Günther)

Minnow Family, CYPRINIDAE
Blacktail shiner, *Cyprinella venusta* (Girard)
Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus
Cypress minnow, *Hybognathus hayi* Jordan
Striped shiner, *Luxilus chrysocephalus* Rafinesque
Golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)
Emerald shiner, *Notropis atherinoides* Rafinesque
Taillight shiner, *Notropis maculatus* (Hay)
Weed shiner, *Notropis texanus* (Girard)
Mimic shiner, *Notropis volucellus* (Cope)
Bullhead minnow, *Pimephales vigilax* (Baird and Girard)
Creek chub, *Semotilus atromaculatus* (Mitchill)

Sucker Family, CATOSTOMIDAE
Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacépède)
Smallmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus bubalus* (Rafinesque)
Bigmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus cyprinellus* (Valenciennes)
Black buffalo, *Ictiobus niger* (Rafinesque)
Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops* (Rafinesque)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE
Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas* (Rafinesque)
Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)
Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus* (Mitchill)
Channel Catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*
Flathead Catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris* (Rafinesque)

Pike Family, ESOCIDAE
Grass pickerel, *Esox americanus vermiculatus* (Lesueur)
Chain pickerel, *Esox niger* (Lesueur)

Pirate Perch Family, APHREDODERIDAE
Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus* (Gilliams)

Killifish Family, CYPRINODONTIDAE
Golden topminnow, *Fundulus chrysotus* (Günther)
Starhead topminnow, *Fundulus nottii* (Agassiz)
Blackstripe topminnow, *Fundulus notatus* (Rafinesque)
Blackspotted topminnow, *Fundulus olivaceus* (Storer)

Livebearer Family, POECILIIDAE
Western mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

Silverside Family, ATHERINIDAE
Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)

Temperate Bass Family, PERCICHTHYIDAE
White bass, *Morone chrysops* (Rafinesque)
Yellow bass, *Morone mississippiensis* (Jordan and Eigenmann)
Striped bass, *Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum)

Sunfish Family, CENTRARCHIDAE
Banded pygmy sunfish, *Elassoma zonatum* (Jordan)
Green sunfish, *Lepomis cyanellus* (Rafinesque)
Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus* (Cuvier)
Orangespotted sunfish, *Lepomis humilis* (Girard)
Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus* (Rafinesque)
Dollar sunfish, *Lepomis marginatus* (Holbrook)
Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* (Rafinesque)
Redear sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus* (Günther)
Spotted sunfish, *Lepomis punctatus* (Valenciennes)
Bantam sunfish, *Lepomis symmetricus* (Forbes)
Florida largemouth bass, *Micropterus floridanus* (Kassler et al)
Northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides* (Lacépède)
White crappie, *Pomoxis annularis* (Rafinesque)
Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)

Perch Family, PERCIDAE
Swamp darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme* (Girard)
Slough darter, *Etheostoma gracile* (Girard)

Drum Family, SCIAENIDAE
Freshwater drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens* (Rafinesque)

Genetics
Electrophoretic analysis of largemouth bass in 2004 showed 100% northern strain (no Florida genes). The complete record of genetic testing is found in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Genetics of largemouth bass in Lake St. John, Louisiana in 2004.

Year	% Northern	% Florida	% Hybrid	% Florida Influence
2004	100	0	0	0

Threatened/endangered/exotic species
None; species of interest – Gulf pipefish are occasionally found in Lake St. John

Creel
Early records show a creel survey was done in 1961; the records are unclear as to methods used and reliability is uncertain. Access Point Creel Surveys were conducted on Lake St. John in 2004 and 2005.

Historic information
1961 estimates: Total angler hours = 14,447

2004 estimates: No. of anglers = 3,121; total angler hours = 13,805; mean trip = 4.69 hrs.; mean distance traveled = 109 miles

2005 estimates: No. of anglers = 1,790; total angler hours = 6,229; mean trip = 3.73 hrs.; mean distance traveled = 108 miles

Hydrological Changes

Lake St. John was completely cut off from flood water exchange with the Mississippi River with the construction of federal flood control levees in the 1920's.

Water Use

Hunting
Hunting on Lake St. John is minimal due to extensive residential development. However various species of waterfowl frequent the lake during the winter.

Recreational watersports

Recreational water sports are very popular on Lake St. John and include water skiing, jets skis, party barges, and other recreational boats. The extreme ends of the lake are not suitable for water sports but the main body of the lake is free of obstructions for skiers and recreational boaters. Due to the numerous homes and camps located on the shoreline the lake is used extensively for water recreation.

Fishing

Lake St. John is utilized extensively for recreational fishing -- primarily largemouth bass, hybrid bass, catfish and bluegill.

Scuba Diving

Minimal scuba diving is done on Lake St. John due to limited water clarity.

Swimming

Yes

Irrigation

Surveys of Lake St. John observed several irrigation pumps along the shoreline.

Special Event

The "Lake St. John Flotilla" boat parade is held each July 4th weekend.

Appendix I
(return to drawdown)

Lake St. John drawdown structure in Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

Appendix II
(return to association)

Resume Digest of HB 313

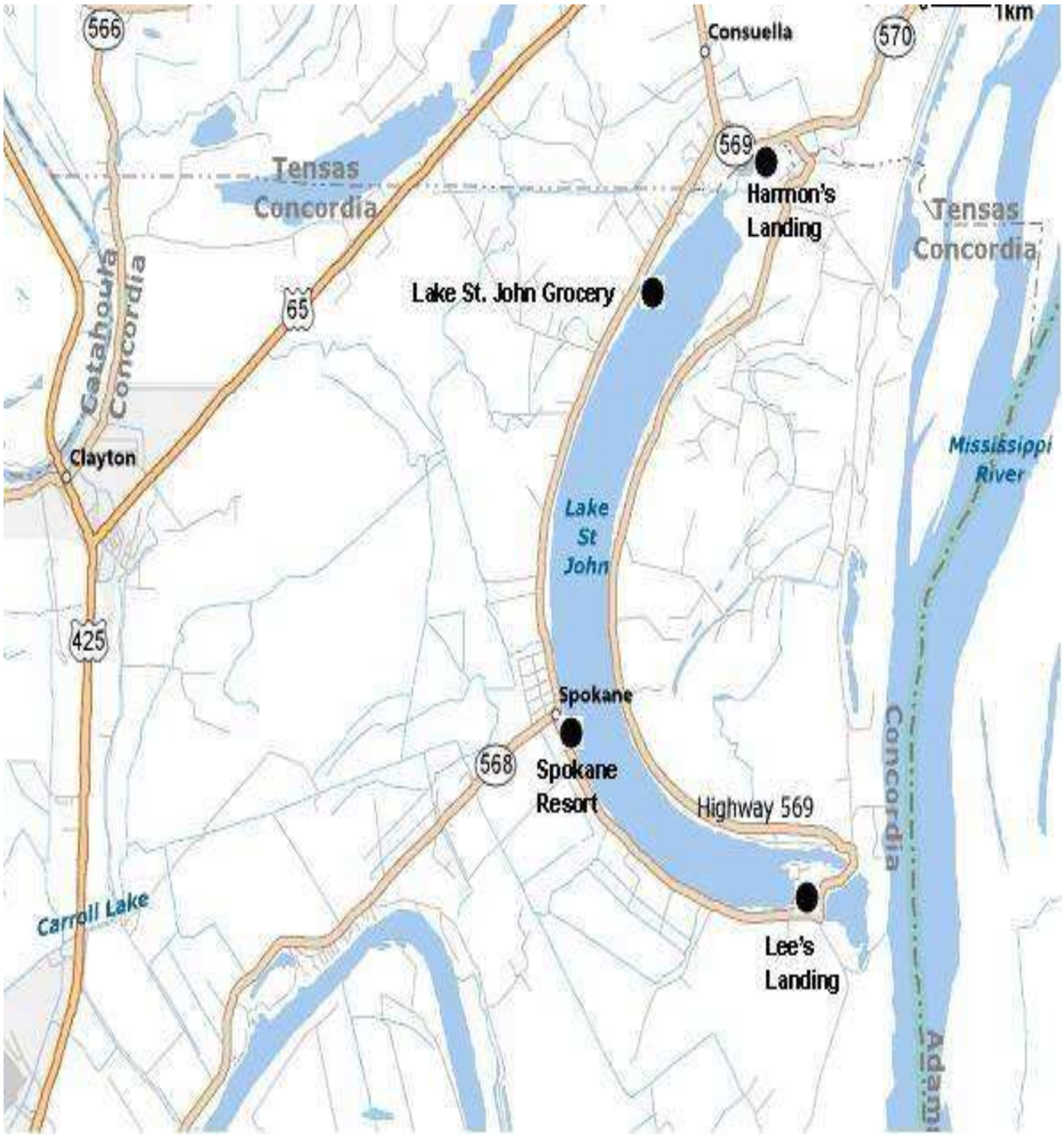
Hammett (HB 313) Act No. 214
New law creates the Lake St. John Recreation and Water Conservation District comprised of the area of Lake St. John and all of the land between La. Highways 568 and 569 and Lake St. John, located within Concordia Parish. Provides that the purpose of the district is the preservation, promotion, and development of the wealth and natural resources of the district by the conservation of soil and water for agricultural, recreational, commercial, and sanitary purposes and by the regulation of aquatic plant growth.
New law provides that the district shall have the authority to acquire property and to and lease, build, operate, and maintain any works or machinery designed to accomplish district purposes. Grants the authority control over the supply of fresh water and authority to sell such water for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses both within and outside its jurisdiction; however the district has no control over use of water by any entity which was using water prior to creation of the district. Authorizes the commission to cooperate and contract with public entities for the construction, operation, and maintenance of its facilities.
New law provides that the district shall be governed by a board of five commissioners, each of whom shall be a qualified elector of the district and a resident of Concordia Parish. Provides for appointment of commissioners by the parish legislative delegation. Nominations for the initial appointments come from the Lake St. John Flotilla Committee and the Lake St. John Advisory Board via the police jury. Nominations for subsequent appointments come from the board itself. Provides that commissioners serve staggered four year terms without compensation. Commissioners are limited to serve no more than two complete or partial terms.
New law provides that a commissioner may not serve more than two consecutive complete or partial terms. Provides that the president of the board shall fill any vacancy for an unexpired term subject to approval by the board. Requires removal of any commissioner who has three consecutive unexcused absences or has failed to perform his duties. Requires approval of the removal by a majority of the board and final removal by the appointing authority.
New law provides that the board of commissioners may:
(1) Purchase, hold, sell, and convey immovable and movable property.
(2) Acquire servitudes and rights-of-use by purchase, lease, or assignment.
(3) Assist in conserving soil and water and in developing water resources provided the board does not interfere with the authority of any other political subdivision.
(4) Cooperate with DOTD and other state agencies in the maintenance or improvement and the construction of any works or improvements.
(5) Manage the water level in the lake and make recommendations to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regarding lake drawdowns for biological purposes and aquatic plant control.

(6) Employ personnel, including engineers and attorneys and personnel to enforce regulations promulgated by the commission. Provides that the district is not subject to constitutional provisions relating to the state civil service system.
(7) Levy taxes and incur debt.
(8) Cooperate and contract with others for the sale or use of waters.
(9) Grant franchises to utility companies when construction of facilities is within the district.
(10) Do all things necessary to fulfill authority purposes.
New law authorizes the district to request information and assistance from DOTD, with respect to the improvements and maintenance of the district.
With respect to debt and taxes: authorizes the commission to incur debt for any lawful purposes and to issue certificates of indebtedness and, subject to voter approval, to issue bonds payable from an ad valorem tax. Provides that the principal amount of all such outstanding bonds shall not exceed 10% of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the boundaries of the district. Provides that the commission shall have additional authority to levy taxes for improving, operating, and maintaining it facilities, subject to voter approval. Further authorizes the levy and collection of a parcel fee, subject to voter approval. Proceeds from the parcel fee are to be used for costs of district operation, including management and control of water levels and aquatic plant growth, protection and preservation of the works, improvements, and properties owned or controlled by the district, providing for the use of such properties, and preserving order. Authorizes issuance of bonds secured by the parcel fee.
New law authorizes the board to make and enforce rules and regulations to:
(1) Protect and preserve the works, improvements, and properties controlled by the commission.
(2) Prescribe the manner of construction in the district.
(3) Prescribe the manner in which natural or artificial watercourses may be connected to the works of the commission or used for sewer outlets.
(4) Prescribe the permissible uses of the water supply.
(5) Prohibit or regulate the discharge into sewers of the commission of any liquid or solid waste deemed detrimental to the works and improvements to the commission.
(6) Regulate activities on the lake that are not regulated by the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Provides that the board shall make recommendations to the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for regulations pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, water sports, and boating.
New law prohibits all of the following and provides for penalties for violations as indicated:
(1) Erect any dam or reservoir upon any watercourse which will affect the lake without the approval of the board of commissioners; $500-1,000 fine or up to 60 days imprisonment, or both.
(2) Empty any noxious substance into any watercourse within the district; $100-1,000 fine or up to three months imprisonment, or both.
Penalties for the following are a fine of $500-1,000 or up to 60 days imprisonment, or both.
(3) Obstruct drainage channels, except in accordance with plans, specifications, and instructions prescribed by the board.
(4) Construct dams, locks, or gates without permission of the board.

(5) Float timber in the watershed.
(6) Close or place any obstruction which will interfere with the effective, thorough, and continuous drainage into the lake by any person whose land abuts the lake or abuts any public road parallel to the waterline or that is contiguous to the lake; $500-1000 fine or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both.
New law requires all construction and letting contracts for construction to be subject to and exercised under the supervisory control of DOTD. Requires DOTD to provide engineering services and to cooperate in construction. Provides that if the district or DOTD acquires land, the owner may retain the mineral rights to such property. Provides that property acquired by the district or DOTD for purposes of the district is exempt from taxation. Provides that new law does not abridge the right of any person, firm, or corporation from whom a servitude or right-of-use has been acquired to lease the land for production of minerals.
New law authorizes the district to create and construct recreational facilities and other facilities to accommodate the public and to provide for adequate lake access. Requires that the board provide public access boat ramps.
New law authorizes the board to establish and enforce rules and regulations pertaining to commercial establishments constructed in the district and to license and permit such establishments and to levy and collect a fee for the privilege of making commercial use of the facilities of the lake. Provides that the rules and regulations shall provide penalties for any commercial establishment operating without a permit or license.
Effective upon signature of governor (June 29, 2005).
(Adds R.S. 38:3087.281-3087.297)

Appendix III
(return to boat ramps)

Lake St. John map with location of boat launches



Appendix IV
(return to typemap)

Vegetation Type map
By Dave Hickman
September 2005

Lake St. John was about 2 feet below pool stage at the time of the survey in late summer of 2005. The area known as Harmon's Lake on the north end of the lake, which was 3 feet deep or less, was covered in a mixture of coontail, southern naiad and bladderwort. There was also alligator weed and water primrose near the shore. Two areas on the south end of the lake near St. Mary's Church were partially covered in southern naiad from the shore to a depth of about 4 feet.

Appendix IV continued

Lake St. John Type Map 2012